

aimed at improving existing water navigation systems, including the Upper Ohio Navigation Study, the Nation's largest such study on an inland river system. He has also demonstrated a clear commitment to helping communities in need. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, he served two deployments in New Orleans, during which he coordinated requests for Federal debris removal assistance with parish and local municipal officials, monitored contractor curb-side collection from private properties, and worked with regulatory agencies to reduce the environmental impacts of disposal operations.

Currently, Curt serves as the Pittsburgh District's Chief of Planning and Environmental Branch. One of his most critical responsibilities in this capacity is to be a leader in the Corps' public outreach efforts. He has demonstrated a flair for concise and effective communication in his interactions with private citizens, regional organizations and government agencies. He consistently articulates esoteric engineering concepts and flood repair processes in easily understandable terms.

Curt's laudable service has earned him a number of well-deserved Army Civilian Service honors. These include the Superior Civilian Service Award; two Commander's Awards for Civilian Service; and three Achievement Medals for Civilian Service.

Mr. Speaker, I have worked closely with Curtis for over a decade. He's a first-class public servant whose experiences and expertise will surely be missed.

I wish Curt the best of luck as he transitions into retirement. I share in the pride that his devoted wife Cindy and two sons feel in his accomplishments, and have the utmost confidence that he will continue to be successful in whatever he chooses to do next.

HONORING ALFRED L. MARDER AS HE CELEBRATES HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2012*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to rise today to join the many friends, family, and community leaders who have gathered to celebrate the outstanding contributions of Alfred L. Marder as he celebrates his 90th birthday. Al is one of our community's most active advocates—dedicating much of his life to fighting for social justice and the improvement of the quality of life for all.

Al Marder is an institution in our community. He is perhaps best known for his work to promote peace, social justice, worker's rights and equality. His commitment to these issues is unwavering—regardless of controversy, he always stands firm in his fight to protect human rights.

Over the course of his 90 years, Al has made innumerable contributions to our community and our nation. In his early years, Al served as Executive Director of the Connecticut CIO Youth and Sports Organization and was President of the New Haven Youth Conference. He served in the United States Infantry during World War II and was stationed in the European Theater where he received the Bronze Star. Following the war, Al com-

pleted his college education at the University of Connecticut and soon found a passion that he would pursue for the rest of his life. During the McCarthy era, Al was one of those singled out for proudly sharing his thoughts and ideas. Standing firm in his support of civil liberties and the right of every American to freely express themselves, Al discovered his passion for civil and workers rights—two issues to which he has dedicated a lifetime of advocacy.

Here in New Haven, Al has made many contributions that have changed the face of our community. One of those outstanding efforts was his work to bring light to story of the Amistad captives and its lessons of unity to achieve freedom. The Amistad story has a special connection to the New Haven community and its resurrection and celebration has become a great source of pride. It has led to the erection of a statue of Sengbe Pieh at City Hall, the re-creation of the Amistad ship at Mystic Seaport, and the formation of the Connecticut African American Freedom Trail. Through each of these efforts, the story of the Amistad and its captives' fight for freedom teaches new generations of the fundamental liberties on which our nation was built. It has had an extraordinary impact on our community and would not have been possible without Al's commitment to ensuring its success.

I am honored to have this opportunity to join all of those gathered today in wishing Alfred L. Marder a very happy 90th birthday. At 90-years young, Al continues his work on behalf of those whose voices are too often silenced. Al has left an indelible mark on our community and a legacy of advocacy and compassion that will certainly inspire generations to come. I extend my very best wishes to him, his children, Rebecca and Kenneth, and his grandchildren, Emily and Adam, for many more years of health and happiness.

125 REASONS TO CELEBRATE THE GREATER ORANGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2012*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce.

Tonight, this vibrant Chamber will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. This great advocate for small business began back in 1887 as a citizens committee and then became the city's Board of Trade just before the turn of the 20th century.

The city of Orange was born the same year Texas won its Independence, but its history goes much further back. The area first settled around 1600 by the Atakapas tribe is now a shining jewel in the Golden Triangle's crown.

Following up on Orange's proud heritage of ship building for America's military, it was this Chamber that saw the future of petrochemicals and brought jobs to the area just as our soldiers, sailors and marines were returning from World War II.

This Chamber has a long history of bringing civic leaders and business leaders together to make Orange a better place to live and work. The community, led by a vibrant Chamber of Commerce, has taken on the tough tasks from

building better roads, a first rate port, strong local schools and a growing college.

Named for its Orange groves, the modern Orange boasts its very own Shangri-La and the world class Lutch Theater as well as the renowned Stark Museum of Art. This is a community that doesn't shy away from a challenge. Hurricanes Rita and Ike only hardened the resolve of this Golden Triangle treasure and I expect more great things from Orange in the next 125 years as this community continues to grow, while maintaining its signature small town charm mixed with world-class culture.

Today, I honor all those who have made this Chamber great and look forward to meeting those who will lead it in the future.

HONORING JESSIE BENTON  
FREMONT

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2012*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during Women's History Month, to acknowledge and honor the life and legacy of Jessie Benton Fremont, a California resident, who helped inspire and lead efforts to preserve and protect what is now a very significant part of Yosemite National Park.

Jessie Benton Fremont was born May 31, 1824, near Lexington, Virginia to United States Senator Thomas Hart Benton and his wife, Elizabeth. Her father, a Senator from Missouri, was very influential in the development of her independent and visionary nature. While in Washington, Mrs. Fremont met her husband, United States Army Lieutenant John Charles Fremont. John Fremont became a great explorer of the Western United States after he was assigned to lead expeditions reaching from the Midwest to California.

In the late 1850's, the Fremonts and their children settled in Bear Valley, near Mariposa, California. While living there, Mrs. Fremont fell in love with Yosemite Valley. Like all who view the valley for the first time, she was awestruck by the grand rock formations, Giant Sequoia trees, waterfalls, and impressive scenery. She shared her love for Yosemite Valley with those who visited her home. She took visitors on tours and hosted afternoon teas and Sunday dinners at her Bear Valley and Black Point homes for well-known authors, editors, photographers, and military and political leaders. Some of her guests included Horace Greeley, Thomas Starr King, Carleton Watkins, Richard Henry Dana, Jr., and United States Senator Edward Baker of Oregon.

During these social gatherings, Mrs. Fremont shared her concern for the need to preserve Yosemite Valley and the Giant Sequoias. Many of her friends and acquaintances joined her effort to lobby Congress and President Abraham Lincoln to protect Yosemite Valley and what would later become known as the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias.

Mrs. Fremont's passionate leadership in preserving Yosemite Valley was an instrumental first step in a long chain of activism that resulted in designating the land as a National Park. In 1864, Mrs. Fremont and her associates encouraged their friend, Israel Ward Raymond, to send United States Senator John